



SHE MUST'VE TOLD POLARIS ABOUT HER EXPERIENCE AT THE FESTIVAL AFTER SHE RETURNED HOME.



HER WORDS PROBABLY SOUNDED LIKE NO MORE THAN A PARANOID GIRL'S DELUSIONS.



FROM AN OUT-SIDER'S POINT OF VIEW,

WHAT IF HER COMRADES HAD ALREADY BEEN CONSUMED BY PARANOIA THEMSELVES?



AND, WHAT'S MORE...

...HOW-EVER,

HINAMIZAWA SYNDROME IS THE SORT OF DISEASE THAT CAN BE ALEVIATED BY TALKING THINGS OUT WITH YOUR PEERS.





LATER THAT NIGHT,

THE CURSE OF
OYASHIRO-
SAMA REALLY
DID HAPPEN.



THERE'S
ONLY ONE
CONCLUSION
THEY
WOULD'VE
COME TO.

SO UNLESS
POLARIS
THEMSELVES
ORCHESTRATED
THE CURSE,



THIS PLACE
IS A DEN OF
DEMONS
WHO DO NOT
HESITATE TO
KILL.

WE WERE
MADE TO BE
THE VICTIMS
OF THE CURSE
AS PRETEXT
FOR
ATTACKING
US.

THE CURSE
WAS
CARRIED
OUT BY
THE
VILLAGERS.

WHY
WOULD
THEY DO
THAT?

THEY WENT
AS FAR AS
MURDER
JUST TO
DRIVE
POLARIS
OUT? THAT'S
CRAZY!

THIS IS A
GENUINE
DECLARATION
OF WAR,
FROM
HINAMIZAWA
TO POLARIS.



AND
KEITAROU
HIMSELF
WAS
PROBABLY
DEVELOPING
POLARIS
SYNDROME.

GIVING HIM AN
ELEVATED SENSE OF
RIGHTEOUSNESS
AND A SPIRIT OF
MARTYRDOM,
DRIVING HIM TO
TAKE LARGE-SCALE
MEASURES THAT
COULD EVEN
INVOLVE THE
PEOPLE AROUND
HIM.



AND...

AS SHE
WAS IN
THAT
STATE,
KEITAROU
WAS
ACTIVELY
PUSHING
TO GET
MORE
INVOLVED
WITH HER.

THERE'S
NO WAY
THAT
DIDN'T
HAVE AN
EFFECT
ON HER.



THAT MAY HAVE BEEN WHAT GAVE HIM THE IDEA TO HOLD AN INFORMAL SOCIAL GATHERING AT THE FURUDE SHRINE.



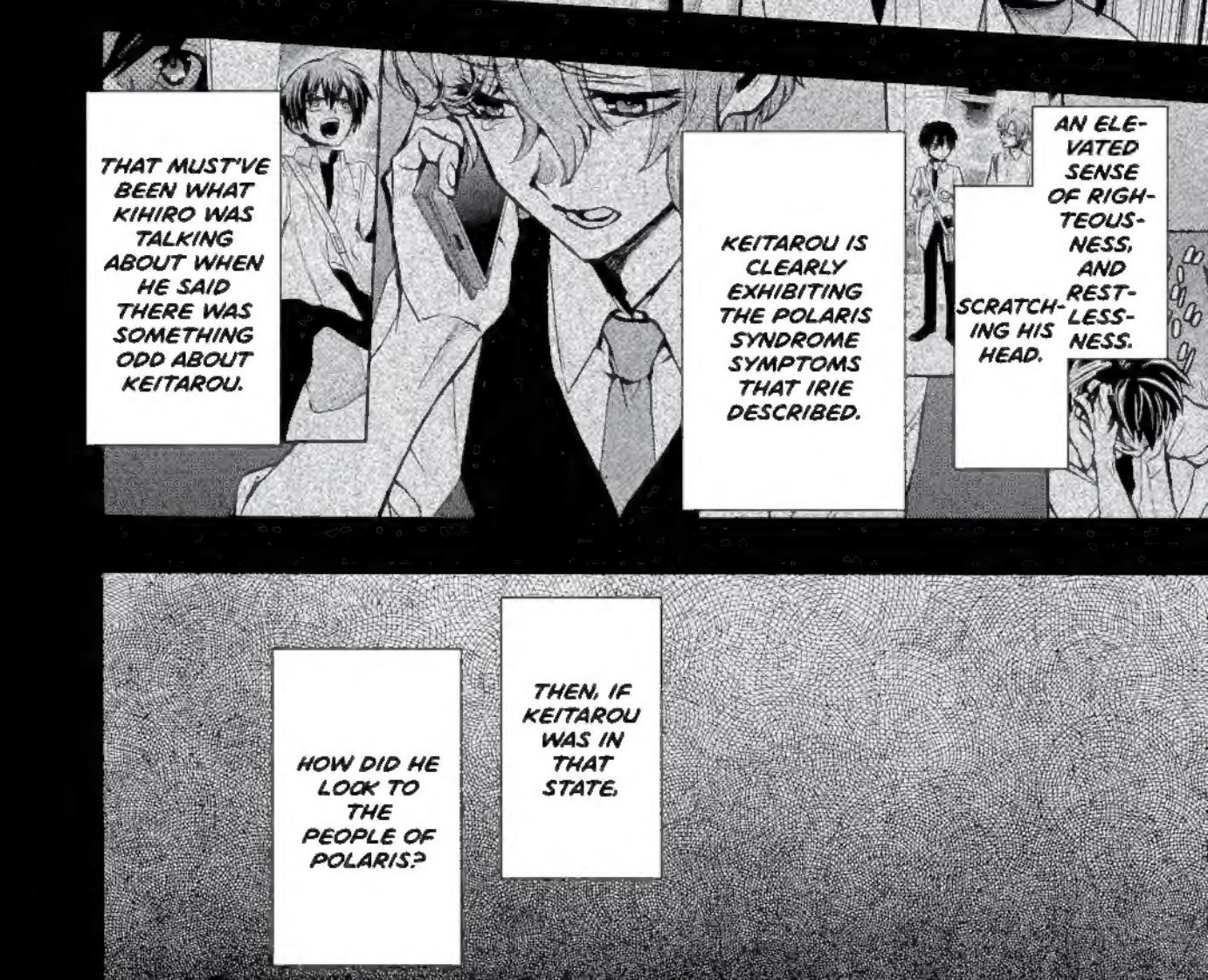
THAT MUST'VE BEEN WHAT KIHIRO WAS TALKING ABOUT WHEN HE SAID THERE WAS SOMETHING ODD ABOUT KEITAROU.



KEITAROU IS CLEARLY EXHIBITING THE POLARIS SYNDROME SYMPTOMS THAT IRIE DESCRIBED.



AN ELEVATED SENSE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, AND RESTLESSNESS. SCRATCH-LESSING HIS HEAD.



HOW DID HE LOOK TO THE PEOPLE OF POLARIS?

THEN, IF KEITAROU WAS IN THAT STATE.



FROM
THAT
GIRL'S
POINT OF
VIEW.

A CENTRAL
FIGURE IN
HINAMIZA-
WA.

KEITAROU
MAEBARA
IS...



MUCH LIKE WHEN
KEICHI DEVELOPED
SYMPTOMS AND
VIEWED MION AND
RENA AS TERRIFYING
CREATURES AIMING
TO TAKE HIS LIFE.



HE MUST'VE
LOOKED LIKE
A DEMON,
COERCING
OTHERS INTO
UNITY THROUGH
INTIMIDATION,
WITH A SMILE
ON HIS FACE.



KEITAROU WAS
TRYING TO
STUBBORNLY
CLING TO HIS
OWN RIGHTEOUS
VIEW THAT ALL
PEOPLE CAN
UNDERSTAND
ONE ANOTHER.

WHILE
POLARIS'S
PARANOIA
WAS
REACHING
ITS PEAK.

KEITAROU
PROPOSED
HIS
STARLIGHT
CAMP
GATHERING.



HE TOLD US
TO COME TO
THE FURUDE
SHRINE IN
THE MIDDLE
OF THE
NIGHT.
EVERYONE
IN POLARIS.

INORI...

EVEN THOUGH
THE CURSE OF
OYASHIRO-SAMA...
A MURDER
HAPPENED JUST
THE OTHER DAY.

KEITAROU
MAEBARA...
THAT
CULTIST
BASTARD...

GET OUT,
GET OUT,
GET OUT!

HEY,
CAN'T
YOU
SEE?

THERE ARE
MAGGOTS
INFESTING
MY BODY!

scratch

Scratch

AT THE
PICNIC? OR
AT THE
FESTIVAL?

THEY
MUST'VE
POISONED
ME. ITCHYYY!

scratch

scratch

scratch



Higurashi no Naku Koro ni Rei: Irotoutoshi-hen

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